

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IO-13 (ISO) W

----- 020244

O 271045Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5036

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1460

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS SF

SUBJECT: SUBSIDENCE OF CLASHES IN SOWETO

1. SITUATION IN SOWETO LAST NIGHT (AUGUST 26) WAS ONE OF RELATIVE CALM. THERE WERE SCATTERED FIGHTS, STONINGS, AND BURNINGS, BUT ONE ZULU HOSTEL LEADER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THIS MORNING (AUGUST 27) THAT "WAR WAS OVER." DEPUTY POLICE COMMISSIONER KRIEL SAID "POLICE ARE STILL KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION, BUT WE HAVE IT REASONABLY UNDER CONTROL."

2. ALL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS TO AND FROM SOWETO TODAY (AUGUST 27) WERE GO, AND WORK ATTENDANCE OF BLACKS AT JOHANNESBURG FIRMS WAS ALMOST NORMAL.

2. KWA-ZULU CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI WAS DUE IN SOWETO TODAY TO INTERCEDE WITH ZULUS AND HELP RESTORE CALM, BUT THERE WAS SOME DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER HE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO DO SO, SINCE HIS REEF

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REPRESENTATIVE, GIBSON THLA, WAS HANDED A MESSAGE

YESTERDAY (AUGUST 26) FROM JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER THAT HE (THULA) WAS NOT TO INTERFERE. KRUGER IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID: "I TOLD HIM NOT TO INTERFERE WITH POLICE ACTIONS. THEY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING. THEIR TASK MUST NOT BE MADE MORE DIFFICULT."

3. SPEAKING IN ULUNDI IN KWA-ZULU, CHIEF BUTHELEZI SAID YESTERDAY (AUGUST 26) THAT HE REJECTED ACCUSATIONS THAT ZULUS AT MZIMHLOPE HOSTEL IN SOWETO WERE USED BY POLICE TO BREAK PROTEST MOVEMENT. HE DENIED THAT HIS N'KATHA ORGANIZATION WAS IN ANY WAY ALLIED WITH POLICE IN FIGHTING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AMONG SOWETO'S RESIDENTS. HE SAID: "IT IS TRIBALIST AND RACIST TO SAY THE ZULUS ALONE ARE RESPONSIBLE, AND I CONDEMN IT IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS. BUT I AM SHOCKED BY THESE ACCUSATIONS. IT IS PART OF A CALCULATED CAMPAIGN AGAINST ME BY THE BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT."

4. THULA TOOK PUBLIC LINE THAT ANGER AT MZIMHLOPE HOSTEL WAS NOT CONFINED TO ZULUS ALONE (THOUGH IT WAS ONLY ZULUS WHO WENT ON RAMPAGE). OF 10,300 BLACK MALES AT HOSTEL, TSWANAS NUMBER 1880, ZULUS 1630, SUTOS 1500, PEDIS 1480, AND XHOSAS 1625. IN ALL OF SOWETO'S TEN HOSTELS (MZIMHLOPE IS LARGEST), LARGEST TRIBAL GROUP IS ZULU, WITH 11,200 AGAINST, FOR EXAMPLE, 5,600 PEDI AND 5,300 TSWANA. IN SOWETO AT LARGE, ZULUS COMPRISE LARGEST SINGLE TRIBAL GROUP, NUMBERING 176,000, WITH TSWANAS AT 116,000, SUTO 88,200, XHOSA 61,600, PEDI 56,500 SWAZI 39,650, SHANGAAN 39,325, AND VENDA 21,750.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: APARTHEID, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JOHANN01460
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760327-1028
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760813/aaaaakwd.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUBSIDENCE OF CLASHES IN SOWETO
TAGS: PINS, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006